AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 11 of page 16 as follows:

R^2 of Compound (I) is a hydrogen atom or R^1 and R^2 may bind to each other to form a ring with atoms to which they are bonded. When R^2 is a hydrogen atom, it becomes an N-substituted β-amino acid alkyl ester represented by the formula (I-a). Also, as the case where R^1 and R^2 bind to form a ring with atoms to which they are bonded, there may be mentioned a case where it forms a C_3 to C_6 saturated ring, and of these, the case where ~~it forms~~ R^1 and R^2 form a C_4 saturated [[ring]] alkylene group is particularly preferred. When R^1 and R^2 bind to form a C_4 saturated [[ring]] alkylene group, it becomes an N-substituted 2-homopipecolic acid ester represented by the formula (I-b).